James #60

God does not temp us with evil.

Let us keep the victims at the Fort Stewart shooting in Georgia, in prayer.

We can open up in the OT again today, 1Kings chapter 22.

Our current study stems from James chapter one;

/Jam 1:13 No one is to say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for **God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone**.\

As I pointed out last lesson, God allows Satan a wide berth to put pressure upon us.

We noted the testing of Job as well as looking at Genesis 22 concerning Abraham being called to sacrifice Issac.

God does not fellowship with sin and evil. HE is never purposely placing sin and evil in our path.

Often it is a result of the 3 areas where all pressure & temptations comes from…the OSN, the cosmic system and the devil.

There are some very deep principles that truthfully, only SM Bels can begin to digest concerning the pressures and adversities of sin and evil all around us each.

Immature Christians and Unbels immediately blame GOD for everything.

The more you grow up and study accurately, concerning the very essence of God, HIS grace plan and the angelic conflict, the less you point any finger of blame outward.

 REPEAT

/Psa 5:4 For **You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness**; **No evil can dwell with You.** 5 The boastful will not stand before Your eyes; **You hate all who do injustice**.

Psa 34:16 **The face of the LORD is against evildoers,** To eliminate the memory of them from the earth.\

It is very easy to be an accuser, standing outside of the life of a Job or Abraham during their times of adversity and testing.

The easy answer and human viewpoint, is that GOD is punishing HIS people and God creates sin and evil to show HIS wrath.

 REPEAT

Which is nothing more than foolishness and truly blasphemous if you understand the scriptures.

/Hab 1:13 ***Your* eyes are too pure to look at evil**, And You cannot look at harm *favorably.* Why do You look *favorably* At those who deal treacherously? ***Why* are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they**?

Psa 11:4 The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD’S throne is in heaven; His eyes see, **His eyelids test the sons of mankind.** 5 **The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked**, And His soul hates one who loves violence.\

The eyes speak to intimacy - they speak to the depth of the soul.

Habakkuk was one of the key prophets around just before the time that the Babylonian army rolled across the nation of Israel.

He had lived through a period of national revival followed by a period of spiritual decline. In his statement he makes two truthful prophetic claims – ONE, God can never fellowship with evil and yet – TWO, God is going to allow the wicked, Babylonian Empire to dominate and imprison Israel.

 REPEAT

It is only a contradiction for those who refuse to study and grow up inside the plan of GOD.

Throughout history, GOD has allowed the wicked and Unbels often, to have some form of victory over Bels for two reasons. One is a form of discipline and the other is usually a period of testing and spiritual growth.

/David, on the run from King Saul and his men wrote this psalm – Psa 11:4-5 - *His eyelids test the sons of mankind. 5 The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,*

David knew at times GOD will allow very difficult tests for the sake of growth and sometimes to discipline and guide HIS children back on track.\

David knew in the end; GOD’s plan would prevail. He also knew his destiny was in the hand of GOD, therefore his viewpoint always remained doctrinal.

/The tapestry of what is being woven during adversity in our life is often more complex and profound than we fathom at the time we are knee-deep in it. David learned to rely upon God and also to become an incredible, military leader while on the run from Saul. While King Saul was slowly deteriorating under self- induced misery and then divine discipline.\

God works on a thousand different issues in one event. God is always working… or truly, already HE has done the work!

The idea of God’s bigger picture and mankind’s bigger picture in the end, is like the difference between a two person row boat and 100 foot yacht.

God takes the sins and evil of mankind and was able to weave them into HIS plan with incredible precision, millions of years ago.

/Psa 37:12 **The wicked plots against the righteous**, And gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, For **He sees that his day is coming.**

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, 45 so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for **He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good**, and sends rain on *the* righteous and the unrighteous.\

1Kings covers a span of Israel’s history from around the time of King Solomon into Babylonian captivity.

This chapter covers the end of King Ahab’s reign of the northern tribe and it displays a deal between the southern tribe of Isreal, run by Jehoshaphat, and the feeble king Ahab, husband of Jezebel.

Now what we see is an ongoing struggle with the Arameans and King Ahab wanted to reclaim some land back from them. So, he recruits the Sothern Kingdom to join him.

Keep in mind King Ahab had been a wicked and weak leader, he was truly under the authority of his queen, Jezebel, leader of the phallic cult.

So, the two kings start gathering all the prophets to help figure out a battle plan.

There is one prophet in particular that King Jehoshaphat is very fond of and yet Ahab did not like this guy, because he never prophesied in his favor.

It is very likely this prophet hated Ahab and Jezebel and would not honor them in any way.

Most of the prophets were either under the authority of Jezebel or fearful of her wrath.

Therefore, they always told King Ahab whatever he wanted to hear.

/1Kin 22:13 Then **the messenger who went to summon Micaiah** (mîḵāyhû) spoke to him saying, “Behold now, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable to the king. Please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably.”

His name (Micah), means- who is like GOD. This will be the only one GOD will truly use in this scenario. \

MEE-HA-YEA-WHO- there are several spelling versions of this name, but most mean - WHO IS LIKE GOD?

In English it is pronounce – MICK-KI-AH.

Micaiah was actually believed to be brought out from a holding cell. Because he had spoken against Jezebel’s false prophets one too many times.

The man of integrity and the true prophet was shackled and ignored.

Luckily King Jehoshaphat liked this prophet.

[1Ki 22:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/14/s_313014) But Micaiah said, “As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, I shall speak it.”

We will note a rare case when GOD uses prophets to spread a lie for the intent of discipline.

The fact is, GOD actually just allowed the weak, false prophets to judge King Ahab. Many of these spiritual leaders were wicked.

/[1Ki 22:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/15/s_313015) When he came to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, should we go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?” And he said, “**Go up and succeed, for the LORD will hand *it* over to the king**!”

Micaiah gives a snap answer and King Ahab knows this is not his prophecy.\

This appears to be a form of divine sarcasm and it is evident that this prophet does not respect King Ahab.

He also was told to tell Ahab what he wanted to hear –

which is a sign of deep insecurity and weakness in anyone, especially a leader.

[1Ki 22:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/16/s_313016) Then the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear that you will tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”

Now we get the true prophecy from Micaiah;

[/1Ki 22:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/17/s_313017) So he said,“**I saw all Israel Scattered on the mountains, Like sheep that have no shepherd**.And the LORD said,‘These *people* have no master. **Each of them is to return to his house in peace**.’”

They had no leadership, certainly not from King Ahab. Micaiah is telling him truthfully – this will not end well for anyone involved.\

[1Ki 22:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/18/s_313018) Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy *anything* good regarding me, but *only* bad?”

/Many Christians today, chase after false prophets or weak teachers because they tell them what they want to hear, they tickle their emotions (2Tim 4:3). Hard truth and difficult teachings are never popular with the majority. Yet in leadership, the quest for the truth and academic honesty should be the driving factors. King Ahab would fit right into modern day politics and his prophets, would fit in behind the pulpits!\

What usually happens to the pastor-teachers with integrity, is the majority ignore them or many attack or criticize them – attack the messenger and hopefully discredit the messages that they do not agree with.

[1Ki 22:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/19/s_313019) And *Micaiah* said, “Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the angels of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left.

/Remember, Satan and his high ranking fallen angels have access to heaven ([Job 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/1/6/s_437006), [Rev 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/10/s_1179010)). God can allow evil in His presence, though He can have no fellowship with evil or sin. There is a heavenly protocol within this approach – it is a type of judicial process. Which speaks of legality and business, not intimacy or direct contact.\

It appears Micaiah is having a vision and it may be very confusing for him, yet he is describing something similar that we see in the beginnings of Job chapters one & two.

[1Ki 22:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/20/s_313020) “And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one *spirit* said this, while another said that.

[1Ki 22:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/21/s_313021) “Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will entice him.’

The prophet Micaiah is speaking truth to power – yet the power is King Ahab and it will fall on deaf ears.

[/1Ki 22:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/22/s_313022) “And the LORD said to him, ‘How?’ And he said, **‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’** Then He said, ‘You shall entice *him,* and you will also prevail. Go and do so.’

It is common that many false teachers and false prophets were influenced and even possessed by demonic entities. Today they disguise themselves the same way – angels of light (2Cor 11:14).\

[1Ki 22:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/23/s_313023) “Now then, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours; and the LORD has declares disaster against you.”

King Ahab had now been clearly warned and as is the case with those who reject truth and live in their own relative truths…they not only reject the message but attack the messenger.

 REPEAT

[1Ki 22:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/24/s_313024) Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah approached and struck Micaiah on the cheek; and he said, “How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?”

/The majority of prophets and teacher in the land stood behind King Ahab. They would not justify the one prophet who had proven to be truthful and spiritually mature. Micaiah was already held in jail and disdained by Ahab and many of his followers. That is often how men like the apostles, or those who followed them and certainly Jesus Christ were treated as well.\

1Ki 22: Then the king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king’s son;

Jump down a few verses in closing and let us see what happened to the man of God with integrity;

/[1Ki 22:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/22/27/s_313027) and say, ‘This is what the king says: “**Put this *man* in prison**, and **feed him enough bread and water to survive** until I return safely.”’”

The mature Christians and pastors with integrity are rarely respected, instead they are scoffed at or minimized in society.\

Sadly, even by the large majority of so-called other Believers.

King Ahab would try to disguise himself in the battle and it still did not make any difference.

/1Ki 22:34 Now one man drew his bow at random and **struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor**. So he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and take me out of the battle, for **I am severely wounded**.” 35 The battle raged on that day, and **the king was propped up in his chariot in front of the Arameans, and he died at evening**, and the blood from the wound ran into the bottom of the chariot.\

Ahab sat there, bleeding out, dying watching this battle.

Jezebel would go on for about another 30 years and manipulate the Northern kingdom. Basically, she would rule by proxy, until she was brutally thrown down and trampled by horses and eaten by wild dogs.

In God’s timing and HIS own way, HE dealt with both Ahab and Jezebel.

/God used wicked leadership many times in history to judge, discipline and even maneuver HIS people and human history toward HIS desired goals. HE does not force or ever create any type of evil or sin. GOD operates from eternity past and does so, without stepping on free will or overly restraining the power of Satan. God uses sin and evil inside HIS plan within the temporal life – it will no longer exist at the Great White Throne Judgment.\